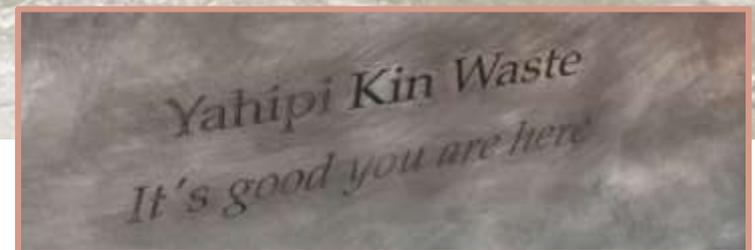


# HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM

Regional Park  
Advisory Committee Meeting #1

October 16, 2018

St. Paul Parks & Recreation,  
Design & Construction Division



Interpretive Panel at Two Rivers Overlook

# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Committee role and expectations
- Project overview
  - Timeline, context and location, goals
  - Natural Resources Inventory
  - Cultural Resources (history, site significance)
- Engagement to-date
- Online Survey (closes end of October)
- Great River Passage Review
- Priorities identified to date
- Break-out groups
  - Review GRP, share your input, report back to committee
- Wrap up, next steps



# Committee Role



# Project Overview

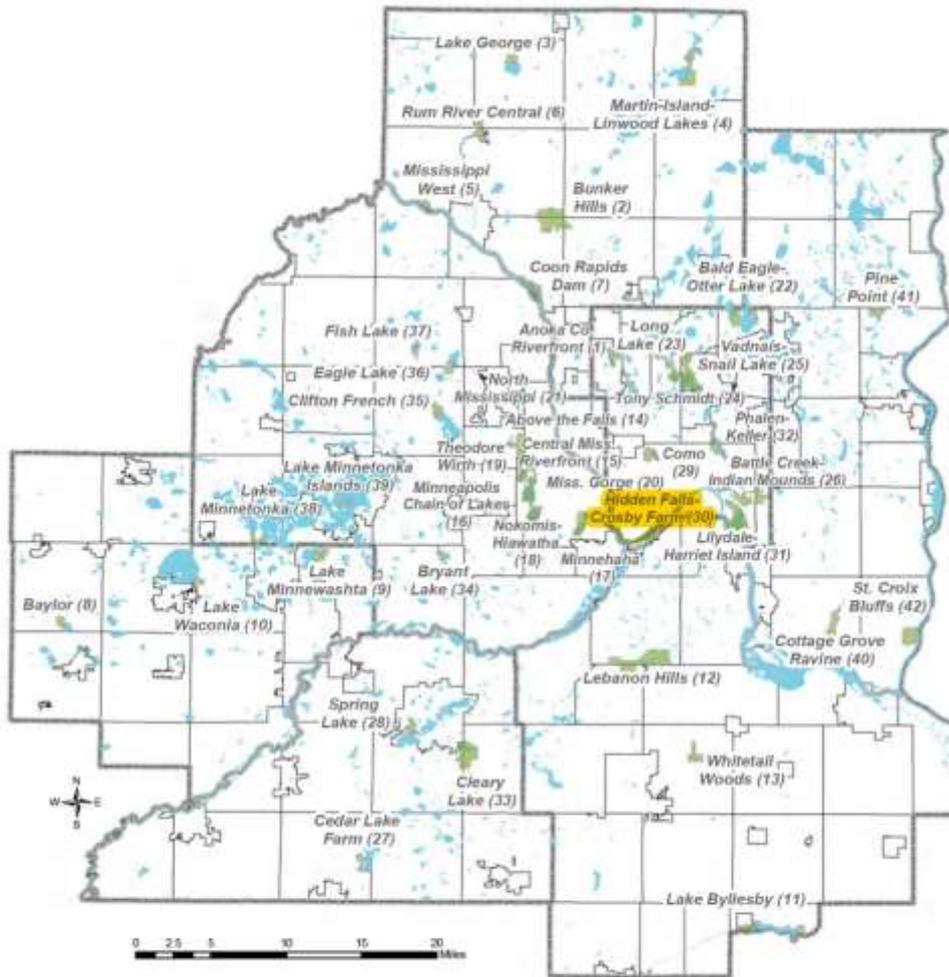
- Timeline
  - Public input August to November 2018
  - Second committee meeting November 2018
  - Open House to verify feedback January 2018
  - First draft report late January 2019
  - Revisions February to April 2019
  - Final report approved June 2019
- Approvals by Metropolitan Council, Parks Commissioners
- Pipeline of funding available

# Project Overview: Regional Parks

## From the Metropolitan Council,

- Regional parks are typically 200-500 acres in size and accommodate a variety of outdoor recreation activities. There are 42 regional parks in the metro area. Hidden Falls is 130 ac, while Crosby is 480 ac.
- The regional parks system draws more than 58 million visits every year – more than the Mall of America. It adds untold value to the livability and attractiveness of our communities. 530,000 people visit this park annually (year-round, data from 2017)
- and Park funds come from a variety of sources, including the State of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment, and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Service area is the whole metropolitan area, far beyond the City of St. Paul

# Project Overview: Regional Parks



Numbers correspond to the regional parks listed in Table 3-2

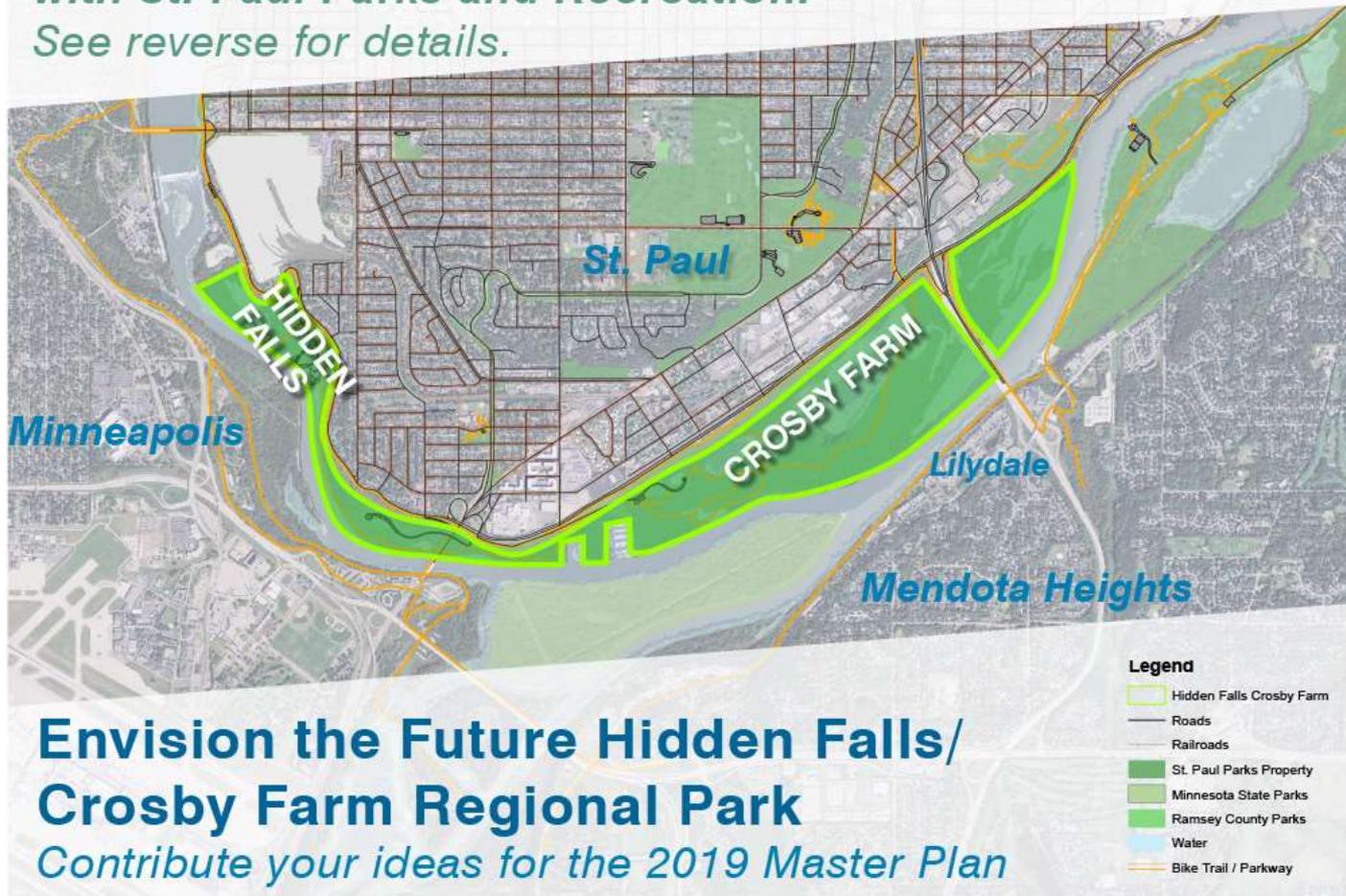
- Regional Parks Open to Public
- City and Township Boundaries
- Lakes and Rivers
- County Boundaries

## Regional Parks as of 2014

Regional Parks	Regional Park Implementing Agency	
1	Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park	Anoka County
2	Bunker Hills Regional Park	Anoka County
3	Lake George Regional Park	Anoka County
4	Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park	Anoka County
5	Mississippi West Regional Park	Anoka County
6	Rum River Central Regional Park	Anoka County
7	Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park	Anoka County/Three Rivers
8	Baylor Regional Park	Carver County
9	Lake Minnewashta Regional Park	Carver County
10	Lake Waconia Regional Park	Carver County
11	Lake Byllesby Regional Park	Dakota County
12	Lebanon Hills Regional Park	Dakota County
13	Whitetail Woods Regional Park	Dakota County
14	Above the Falls Regional Park	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
15	Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
16	Minneapolis Chain-of-Lakes Regional Park	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
17	Minnehaha Regional Park	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
18	Nokomis-Hawatha Regional Park	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
19	Theodore Wirth Regional Park	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
20	Mississippi Gorge Regional Park	Minneapolis/Saint Paul
21	North Mississippi Regional Park	Minneapolis/Three Rivers
22	Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park	Ramsey County
23	Long Lake Regional Park	Ramsey County
24	Tony Schmidt Regional Park	Ramsey County
25	Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park	Ramsey County
26	Battle Creek & Indian Mounds Regional Park	Ramsey County/St. Paul
27	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park	Scott County
28	Spring Lake Regional Park	Scott County
29	Como Regional Park	Saint Paul
30	<b>Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park</b>	<b>Saint Paul</b>
31	Lilydale-Harriet Island & Cherokee Heights Regional Park	Saint Paul
32	Phalen-Keller Regional Park	Saint Paul/Ramsey County
33	Cleary Lake Regional Park	Three Rivers (Scott County)
34	Bryant Lake Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District
35	Clifton E. French Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District
36	Eagle Lake Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District
37	Fish Lake Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District
38	Lake Minnetonka Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District
39	Lake Minnetonka Islands Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District
40	Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	Washington County
41	Pine Point Regional Park	Washington County
42	St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park	Washington County

# Project Overview: Location

*Help improve our riverfront parks! Share your input with St. Paul Parks and Recreation. See reverse for details.*



**Envision the Future Hidden Falls/  
Crosby Farm Regional Park**  
*Contribute your ideas for the 2019 Master Plan*

# Project Overview: Master Plan Goals

- Required by Met Council
- Allows City to request funding
- Respond to nearby development pressures
- Identify and reach out to new park visitors



34

#### Planning Policy:

PROMOTE MASTER PLANNING AND HELP PROVIDE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS.

**Planning - Strategy 1:** Regional park implementing agencies are required to prepare a master plan for each Regional Parks System facility it owns and/or operates.

Minn. Stat. 473.313 requires a master plan to be developed by each regional park implementing agency in consultation with all affected municipalities. While the statute requires only one master plan per regional park implementing agency, the Council requires individual master plans for each regional park, park reserve, trail and special recreation feature. Master plans prepared by the regional park implementing agencies are critical in defining the specifics of acquisition, development and operation of regional facilities.

The plans include the regional park implementing agency's estimates of use and costs. The master plan process allows residents to participate in the development of the plan and other units of government to know what is planned for a park and how it affects them. Collectively, these master plans form the regional park implementing agencies' part of the regional system plan. For a regional park implementing agency to receive a grant for acquisition or development through the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program, the proposed project must be consistent with a Council-approved master plan.

Master plans will be reviewed by the Council for consistency with this and other Council policy plans. Inconsistent plans will be returned with comments to the regional park implementing agency, which must be revised, resubmitted, and approved by the Council to be eligible for Council funding.

Minn. Stat. 473.313 provides for the state model on master plans; however, it does not provide guidance on timelines of revisions. A plan is revised when the regional park implementing agency submits a master plan amendment to the Council to change its original proposal for acquisition and/or development, or when it has developed significant additional details. The Council may approve or reject the master plan amendment for cause and return the plan to the regional park implementing agency for revisions to address the Council's concerns.

#### Master Plan Content Requirements and Funding Process

Each master plan for regional parks, park reserves, and special recreation features must include information for each of these items:

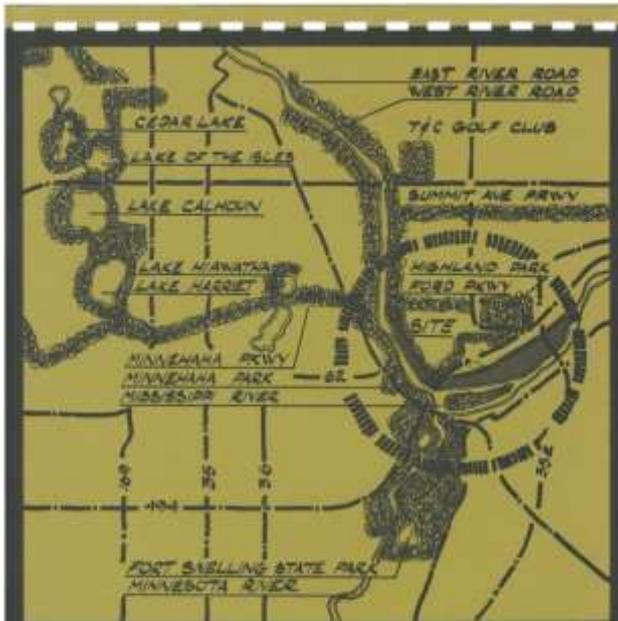
- **Boundaries and acquisition costs.** A list of parcels to be acquired and the estimated total cost and schedule for their acquisition, and information on natural resources, site suitability, special assessments, potential contamination based on data from the

Health, Policies and Strategies

*Asks government organizations to provide a report every 10 to 20 years, listing plans for:*

1. Park boundaries and acquisitions
2. Stewardship
3. Demand forecast
4. Park development/improvement concept
5. Potential conflicts
6. Public services (utilities)
7. Operations
8. Public engagement and participation
9. Public awareness
10. Accessibility
11. Natural resources

# Project Overview: Previous Master Plan

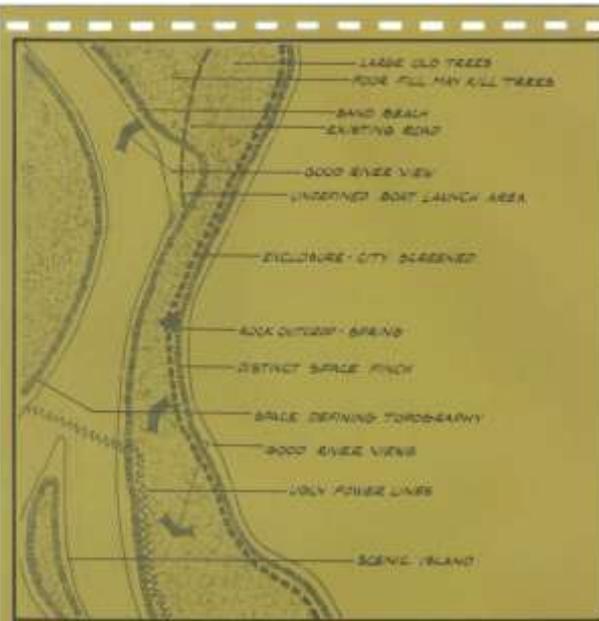


## REGIONAL IDENTITY

The location of the Widener Falls-Cooley Park site is on the southern edge of an extension path and parkway system.

The advantages of integrating the Widener Falls-Cooley Park site with those existing open spaces are obvious. The possibilities of joint programming, continuous hiking and biking trails, and visual continuity should be capitalized upon. Proximity to the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers offers additional opportunities for an expanded recreation program.

## IDENTITY



OVERHEAD FROM EDGE TOP

DISTINCT SPACE - TOP ENCLOSURE

ISLAND LANDMARK



VEGETATIVE ENCLOSURE

TOPOGRAPHIC ENCLOSURE

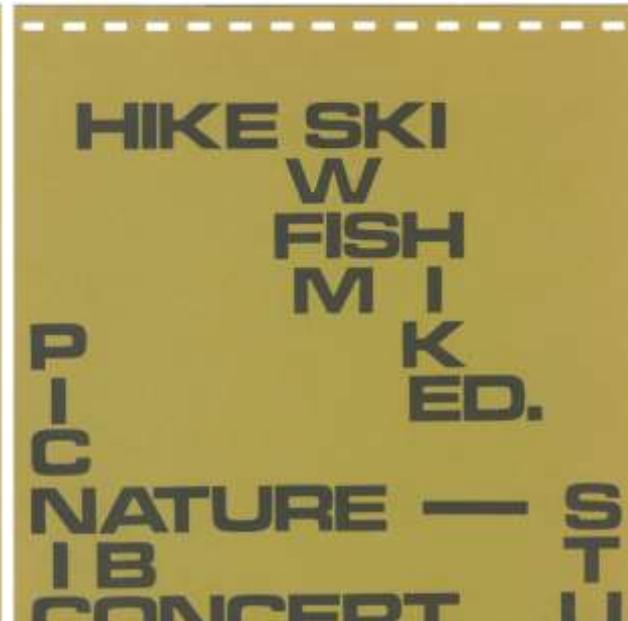
VEWS

LANDMARK

POWER LINES

ACCESS ROAD

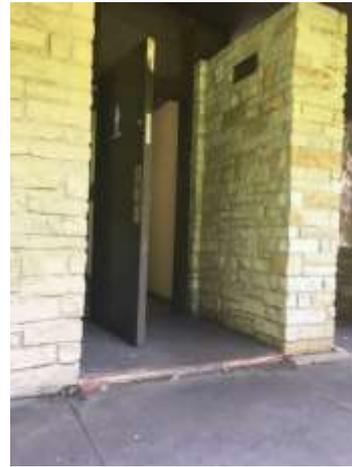
PERCEPTUAL



# Project Overview: Hidden Falls



# Project Overview: Hidden Falls



# Project Overview: Natural Resources

Draft Natural Resources Inventory complete for Hidden Falls (by Great River Greening)

Preliminary findings show that much of the park receives a C or D, no area received an “A” in habitat quality



# Project Overview: Crosby Farm



# Project Overview: Crosby Farm



# Project Overview: Cultural Resources



Completed in 2003

# Natural Resources & Volunteer Work

- Several local groups volunteer in the park – including MISS NPS, FMR, GRG
- City works with Conservation Corps of Minnesota – completed 24 acres forest enhancement work in 2017 (Crosby)
- Conservation Corps assisted with 27 acres of herbaceous species management in 2018, and 18.5 acres of hardwood trees were planted in 2016 and 2017 (Hidden Falls)
- 100 trees planted at National Public Lands Day in 2017 (Hidden Falls); 800 trees planted throughout 2017
- Goats grazed 24 acres in 2017

# Project Overview: Programs

- Many programs and events are held in the park
- St. Paul Parks & Recreation runs day camps and many partners such as the YMCA and NPS lead events



# Project Overview: Recent Investment

- Hidden Falls - minor repairs to the stone stairs (2007) and stream restoration (2011), both less than \$5,000
- Proposal for Hidden Falls North Asphalt Drive Replacement – estimated in 2011 to cost \$730,000 (not completed)
- Crosby – Elway Parking Lot, ADA curb cuts, and signage – \$370,000 – State Legacy Amendment and Watershed District, 2015
- Crosby Pavilion Renovations – \$150,000 (approximate cost) – CIB Capital Maintenance, 2012
- Crosby – West Entrance Parking Lot & Trails – \$450,000 – CIB/CDBG, 2011

# Project Overview: Outreach to date

- Great River Passage (2012)
- National Public Lands Day 2017
- Pulling Together WCCO
- Survey (open until end of October)
- National Public Lands Day/Pop Up Meeting 2018
- West 7th/Fort Road Federation board meeting
- Cleveland and Montreal PHA Resident Council
- Additional Focus Groups in October/November



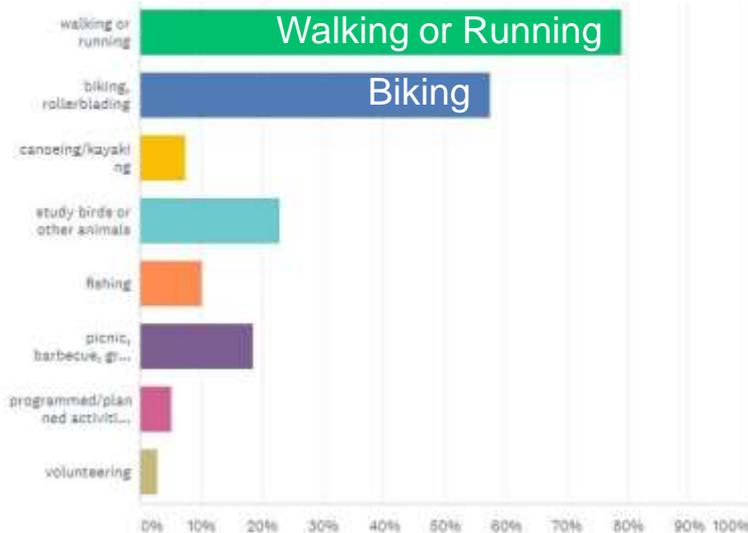
# Survey Preliminary Results (703 responses)

Q3 What do you like best about Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park?

Mississippi Boat Launch Place Riverfront Close to Home Hidden Falls  
 Location Big Paths Lake Feels Undeveloped Nature  
 Wilderness River Middle of the City Trails Green Space  
 Quiet Variety Wild scenic Peaceful Escape Proximity Water Access  
 Scenery

What activities do you typically do at this regional park?

Answered: 637 Skipped: 31



Please rank these potential improvements from most likely to improve your use of the park (top/lowest number) to least likely (bottom/highest number):

Answered: 324 Skipped: 144



Survey closes November 1, 2018

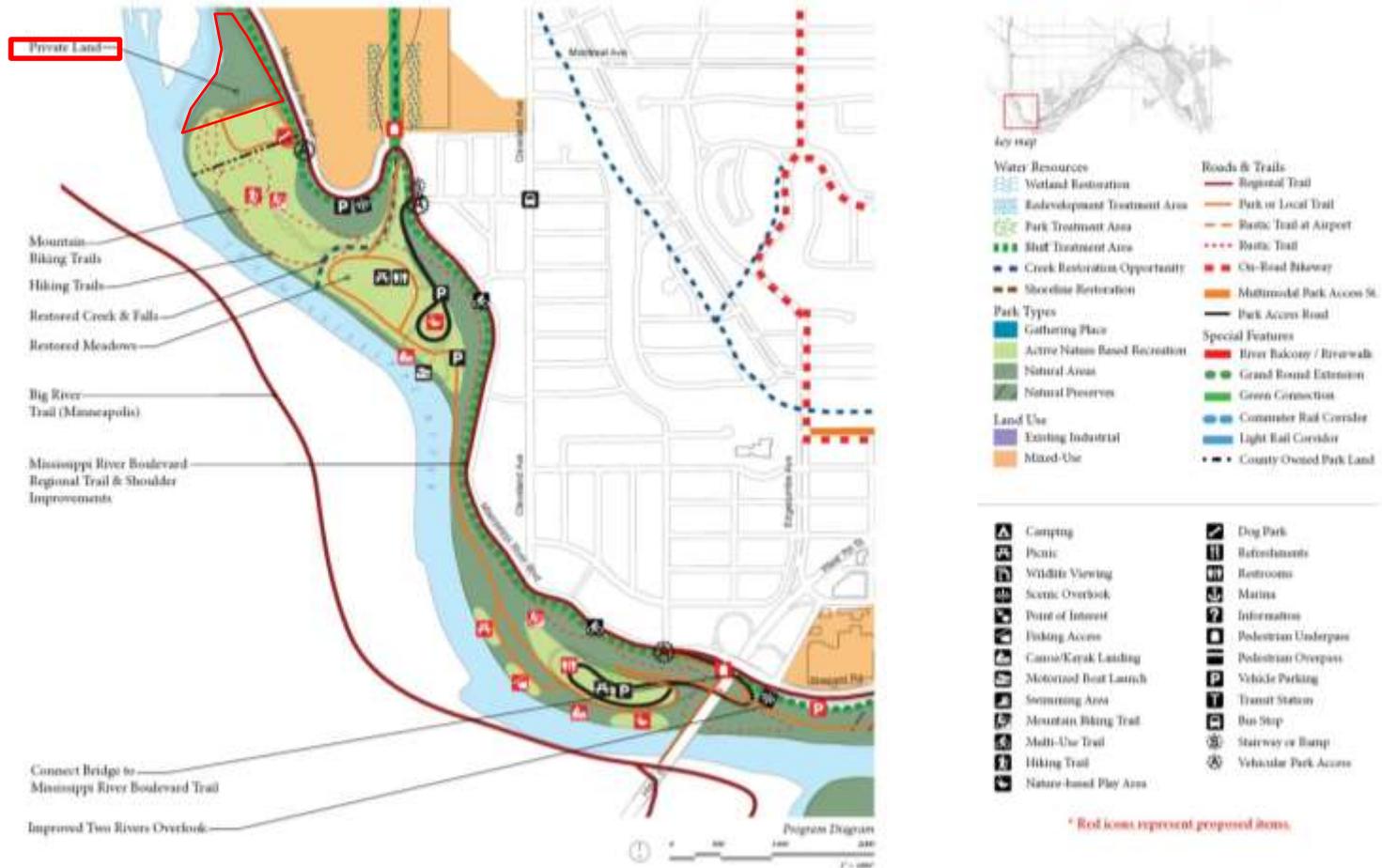
# Great River Passage

- 2012 Master Plan Approved
- Completed/Ongoing:
  - New GRP Division
  - Crosby entry and parking lots
  - Paddleshare
  - Ongoing invasive species removal
  - Environmental Learning Center
  - Wayfinding
- Additional projects specific to Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm



# Great River Passage

## Hidden Falls - Great River Passage (2012)



# Great River Passage

## Crosby Farm - Great River Passage (2012)



Two Rivers Overlook  
Access, Parking &  
Intersection Improvements

Enhanced Bluff-top  
Park & New Overlook  
Green Connection &  
Stream Restoration

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Water Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Wetland Restoration</li> <li> Redevelopment Treatment Area</li> <li> Park Treatment Area</li> <li> Bluff Treatment Area</li> <li> Creek Restoration Opportunity</li> <li> Shoreline Restoration</li> </ul> <p><b>Park Types</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Gathering Place</li> <li> Active Nature-Based Recreation</li> <li> Natural Areas</li> <li> Natural Preserves</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Existing Industrial</li> <li> Mixed-Use</li> </ul> | <p><b>Roads &amp; Trails</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Regional Trail</li> <li> Park or Local Trail</li> <li> Basic Trail at Airport</li> <li> Basic Trail</li> <li> On-Road Bikeway</li> <li> Multinodal Park Access St.</li> <li> Park Access Road</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> River Bikeway / Riverwalk</li> <li> Grand Round Extension</li> <li> Green Connections</li> <li> Commuter Rail Corridor</li> <li> Light Rail Corridor</li> <li> Quarry Owned Park Land</li> </ul> | <p><b>Program Diagram</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Camping</li> <li> Picnic</li> <li> Wildlife Viewing</li> <li> Sunbath Overlook</li> <li> Point of Interest</li> <li> Fishing Access</li> <li> Canoe/Kayak Landing</li> <li> Motorized Boat Launch</li> <li> Swimming Area</li> <li> Mountain Biking Trail</li> <li> Multi-Use Trail</li> <li> Hiking Trail</li> <li> Nature-based Play Area</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Dog Park</li> <li> Refreshments</li> <li> Restrooms</li> <li> Marina</li> <li> Information</li> <li> Pedestrian Underpass</li> <li> Pedestrian Overpass</li> <li> Vehicle Parking</li> <li> Transit Station</li> <li> Bus Stop</li> <li> Railway or Ramp</li> <li> Vehicular Park Access</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|---|

\* Red lines represent proposed items.



# BREAK OUT GROUPS

---

Create a “Big Idea” statement for the park (10 mins)

Review previous park plans (Great River Passage) (5 mins)

List your group’s priority improvements (10 mins)

Choose someone to report back on what you discussed

# BREAK OUT GROUPS

---

Report back on the “big idea” and group priorities

# Priorities Identified To-Date

- Restore stairs and falls area at Hidden Falls
- Repair boardwalk and lake paths at Crosby Farm, stabilize flooding across paths
- Create a park feature that acknowledges the cultural significance and the meeting of the waters and Bdote
- Restore pavilions and update bathrooms at Hidden Falls
- Add nature-based play area to Hidden Falls
- Wayfinding signs, especially indicating short walking loop in both parks; add more resting points along trails
- Improve entry, enhance safety at Mississippi River Blvd
- Build a weather-proof shelter for larger groups (safety)

# Wrap Up / Next Steps

- Focus groups are meeting October to early November 2018
- Next committee meeting November 2018 – review survey results, Natural Resources Inventory for Crosby Farm, and refine priorities list
- Open House January 2019 to review the draft report
- Submit report to Met Council late January
- Complete report approved June 2019

# Your Assignment

Please discuss this project with your representative groups and bring back their comments to our next meeting

## THANK YOU!

- For up to date information, visit the project website:  
<https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master>

# Project Overview: Partnerships

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k\\_jWJgXxRIg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_jWJgXxRIg&feature=youtu.be)

